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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7463
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RUEHZJ/HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RUEHSB/AMEMBASSY HARARE IMMEDIATE 0220
RUEHFL/AMCONSUL FLORENCE IMMEDIATE 2256
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN IMMEDIATE 8481
RUEHNP/AMCONSUL NAPLES IMMEDIATE 2403
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE 6321
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0726

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FOR AF/S STEVE HILL, DRL/MLGA JULIETA NOYES, AND IO/RHS
DOUG ROHN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/21/2017
TAGS: [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [UNHRC](#) [ZI](#) [EUN](#) [IT](#)
SUBJECT: ITALY WILL WORK WITHIN EU ON ZIMBABWE

REF: A. STATE 34009

[1](#)B. STATE 33357

Classified By: Labor Counselor E. Candace Putnam for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (C) Poloff delivered Reftel A and B demarches to Laura Carpini, MFA Human Rights Office Director, March 19, and to Umberto Malnati, MFA Southern Africa Office Director, March 20, emphasizing U.S. concern for the grave situation in Zimbabwe and requesting Italy's support in speaking out against the GOZ's undemocratic actions, including in the UN Human Rights Council. March 21, Malnati responded that Italy's position on recent events in Zimbabwe was perfectly in line with the European Union common policy. The EU expressed its views in the recent EU Presidency Statement, and Malnati confirmed Italy supported that declaration. When Poloff inquired specifically about Italy's willingness to support HRC action on Zimbabwe, Malnati said he would discuss the possibility with the Director General for Sub-Saharan Africa, but believed Italy would allow the EU to speak for the GOI on Zimbabwe.

[1](#)3. (C) Carpini confirmed March 21 that, since Italy was not currently a member of the HRC (Note: Italy is running for a seat this year. End note.), the Italian Mission in Geneva was working within the EU on the issue. Italy believed the situation in Zimbabwe was serious and warranted HRC consideration, but Carpini wondered if the Council would be able to tackle both Sudan--which was an even more serious problem--and Zimbabwe.

[1](#)2. (C) Malnati noted that Italy was among the EU countries emphasizing the need for a solution to the EU-AU Summit debate that would end the current paralysis. The Summit was a hostage of the Zimbabwe situation, Malnati said, and while Italy was not sure of the best solution, the GOI wanted to work to find a resolution that would allow the summit to move forward. Malnati inquired about U.S. plans for addressing the current situation in Zimbabwe.
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